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DEFECTOR: U.S. MUST WATCH 'BIG BROTHER'  
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NORFOLK, VA.

A Soviet defector, who has lived in the United States since 1976 with a new name and new face to keep KGB agents from finding him, told a political rally his former homeland is a "concentration camp."

Journalists were not allowed to photograph Viktor Belenko, formerly one of the top military pilots in the Soviet Union, or even to record his voice during his appearance at a political fundraiser.

Belenko captured worldwide attention in September 1976 when he flew a sophisticated Soviet MiG-25 into Japan and requested political asylum in the United States. Since then, he has changed his name, had plastic surgery and became an American citizen three ago.

Speaking Friday on behalf of Rep. William Whitehurst, R-Va., Belenko said he tried to change the Soviet system before defecting.

"They're not a superpower," he said in a heavy accent. "They're a concentration camp."

Whitehurst befriended the Soviet fighter pilot in 1978 when he revealed high-level Soviet military and intelligence information before a congressional committee.

Belenko, 37, cautioned the audience of about 1,000 to keep a watchful eye on the communist nation and said, "The big brother is waiting for our mistakes."

He was met with cheers when he told the partisan crowd the "Soviets do not like our president. He must be elected again."

Praising President Reagan's defense posture, Belenko said the American invasion of "Grenada is example of how to deal with big Soviet brother."

Belenko said there was nothing he missed about his homeland. He said Soviet citizens were told he was killed by the CIA but "tell them I am alive and well. I am very happy with private life."

Whitehurst said Belenko's speech was his second political appearance since defecting. He spoke earlier this year for Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla.